

Soldier wounded in Iraq is rewarded with U.S. citizenship

**Story and photo by Patrick J. Dickson
Stars and Stripes**

WASHINGTON — Army Spc. Hilario Bermanis was maimed in service to the United States, and a grateful nation made him one of us.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi took part in a ceremony Wednesday making Bermanis, of the 82nd Airborne Division, a U.S. citizen. Bermanis also is a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia.

“This young soldier serves as a true example of sacrifice to a nation that today he can call his own,” Principi was quoted as saying in a VA news release. “He gave of himself so that others could have a better tomorrow. The Department of Veterans Affairs will be there for Spc. Bermanis and thousands of other brave men and women returning home from harm’s way.”

Bermanis lost both legs and his left hand during an attack June 10 in Baghdad while he and a fellow soldier, who was killed instantly, were guarding a weapons turn-in point. Bermanis was evacuated to Germany and then transferred to Walter Reed.

He was awarded the Bronze Star for his conduct in action and a Purple Heart for his injuries.

Bermanis enlisted in the Army three years ago. His parents and 5-year-old brother attended the ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center along with Secretary Principi; Secretary Tom Ridge of the Department of Homeland Security; and Peter Christian, speaker of the Micronesian Congress.



Maj. Gen. Charles Swannack Jr., commanding general of the 82nd Airborne, awards Spc. Hilario Bermanis the Bronze Star for his “conduct in action” and the Purple Heart for wounds received during an attack in southern Baghdad in a bedside ceremony July 16 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Originally of Micronesia, Bermanis was granted U.S. citizenship at a Wednesday ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center attended by Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and well as Bermanis’ parents and 5-year-old brother.

On July 3, 2002, President Bush issued Executive Order 13269 providing naturalization for aliens and noncitizen nationals serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces during Operation Enduring Freedom, from September 11, 2001, to a date not yet determined.

September 17 was designated Citizenship Day in 1952 by President Harry Truman. The anniversary was established to focus on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, both native-born and naturalized.

NEWS

Bush to Challenge U.N. for Help in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - Unbowed by arguments with allies, President Bush will challenge the United Nations with a call to action for money and troops in Iraq and Afghanistan despite lingering differences and a reluctance by many countries to make major contributions. Bush, addressing the General Assembly on Tuesday, will argue - just as he did last year - that the United Nations needs to meet its global responsibilities or risk being irrelevant.

Isabel Damage Overwhelms Cleanup Crews

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -Waiting lines lengthened and frustration mounted Saturday along the broad swath of flooding and wind damage left by Hurricane Isabel as people realized that it could be days before they could savor air conditioning, a warm bath or even a hot cup of coffee. The huge storm knocked out electrical service for about 6 million homes and businesses from North Carolina's Outer Banks north to New York, and the extent of damage combined with debris-blocked streets overwhelmed utility crews. An estimated 2.8 million were still blacked out Saturday. At least 24 deaths had been blamed on the storm, 16 of them in hard-hit Virginia.

Iraq Official Shot in Assassination Try

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Six gunmen firing assault weapons from a Toyota pickup truck chased a member of Iraq's Governing Council in her car and seriously wounded her in the first assassination attempt targeting the U.S.-created leadership body. The brazen, daytime attack was against Aquila al-Hashimi, one of three women on the council, a Shiite Muslim and a strong candidate to become Iraq's representative at the United Nations.

Miami Police Arrest Serial Rape Suspect

MIAMI (AP) - A man was arrested in a string of rapes in this city's Little Havana neighborhood, police chief John Timoney said Saturday. Reynaldo Elias Rapalo, 32, a Honduran citizen whose visa had expired, was arrested Friday night and his DNA sample matched forensic evidence taken from the rape scenes, Timoney said. His fingerprints also matched and an eyewitness identified him as the rapist, he said.

3 Arrested in Dodgers Fan Shooting Death

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Three people were arrested Saturday in the death of a Los Angeles Dodgers fan who was shot during a stadium parking lot dispute after attending a Dodgers-Giants game, police said. A police spokeswoman said late Friday that the fight was between feuding fans and that the shooter was rooting for the San Francisco Giants. But police said Saturday they were still investigating the motive and that it was unclear whether baseball was the issue.

90 Recall Candidates to Appear on Leno

LOS ANGELES (AP) - There'll be an appreciative audience Monday for Jay Leno's jokes about the California recall - 90 candidates will join the TV talk-show host. On "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" in August, the host issued an invitation to all those vying to replace Gov. Gray Davis. Ninety of the 135 candidates confirmed they'll be on hand, NBC said Friday.

Oddly Enough...

USOC Nixes' Rat Olympics' in Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) -- For 29 years, furry white athletes competed in the Rat Olympics: the long jump, rope climb, tightrope walk, five-yard hurdles and weightlifting. Now, the U.S. Olympic Committee says the name for Nebraska Wesleyan University's annual behavioral learning rat competition must be changed because it infringes on its name, which is protected by federal law. The few authorized exceptions include the Special Olympics. So the United Methodist-affiliated school is holding a competition to change the name of the rat runoff. "While we're disappointed about changing the name, we hope others will enjoy the opportunity to participate in this tongue-in-cheek competition," Wesleyan spokeswoman Sara Olson said. The deadline for offering names and rating submissions is Oct. 31. The new name will be announced Dec. 4, the same day that Gidget, Sniffles, Arwen, Frances E. Garfinkle and the rest of this year's rats compete for grub and glory. And the prize for the winning entry on the name? "We haven't established the grand prize yet," Olson said. "It's not going to be a free T-shirt. It'll be something bigger."

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: **No More Excuses**

The soul who sins shall die.
—Ezekiel 18:4


When salmon travel hundreds of miles up rivers and streams to spawn, they are acting on instinct. They are in a sense being driven by an uncontrollable force. I read about a young convict who thinks that human conduct is similar to that of the salmon. Referring to the murders he committed and to his own fate, he said, "Things just happen." He thinks some kind of force was responsible for his pulling the trigger and killing two people. But he is wrong. Man is free and cannot blame his actions on an uncontrollable force such as instinct. More than 2,500 years ago, some Israelites were using a similar excuse. They quoted a well-known proverb that placed the blame for their sins on their ancestors (Ezekiel 18:2). But God told them they were wrong. He said that a good man will not be punished for the sins of a wicked son. Nor will a godly son be punished for the sins of his evil father. Make no mistake. No matter what your situation, you are responsible for what you do.

On This Day In History: **September 21st 1942**


On this day in 1942, the U.S. B-29 Superfortress makes its debut flight in Seattle, Washington. It was the largest bomber used in the war by any nation. The B-29 was conceived in 1939 by Gen. Hap Arnold, who was afraid a German victory in Europe would mean the United States would be devoid of bases on the eastern side of the Atlantic from which to counterattack. A plane was needed that would travel faster, farther, and higher than any then available, so Boeing set to creating the four-engine heavy bomber. The plane was extraordinary, able to carry loads almost equal to its own weight at altitudes of 30,000 to 40,000 feet. Although capable of precision bombing at high altitudes, the Superfortresses began dropping incendiary devices from a mere 5,000 feet, firebombing the Japanese capital in an attempt to break the will of the Axis power. But the most famous use of the B-29 would come in later in the war, as it was the only plane capable of delivering a 10,000-pound bomb--the atomic bomb. The *Enola Gay* and the *Bock's Cart* took off from the Marianas, on August 6 and 9, respectively, and flew into history.


Source: historychannel.com


Saturday College Football


Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Texas A&M (20)	3	9	0	7	19	
	Virginia Tech (8)	7	7	7	14	35	


Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Arizona State (16)	2	0	0	0	2	
	Iowa (14)	0	14	7	0	21	


Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	New Mexico	0	13	0	0	13	
	Washington State (25)	6	6	11	0	23	


Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Idaho	7	0	7	0	14	
	Washington (21)	14	3	14	14	45	


Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Colorado	0	7	0	0	7	
	Florida State (9)	7	9	10	21	47	


Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Georgia (7)	3	0	0	7	10	
	LSU (10)	0	7	3	7	17	


Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Michigan (5)	6	0	7	14	27	
	Oregon (22)	0	21	3	7	31	

Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	UCLA	10	0	14	0	24	
	Oklahoma (1)	7	21	14	17	59	

Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Bowling Green	7	0	0	10	17	
	Ohio State (4)	7	10	0	7	24	

Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Marshall	7	9	0	11	27	
	Kansas State (6)	7	3	3	7	20	

Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Michigan State	3	3	7	9	22	
	Notre Dame (23)	3	3	3	7	16	

Final		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	T	
	Tennessee (12)	0	7	10	7	24	
	Florida (17)	3	0	0	7	10	